



# *General Manager/ Chief Executive Officer*

LEADERSHIP | PARTNERSHIP | STEWARDSHIP

HIGHLAND, CALIFORNIA



## East Valley Water District

Formed in 1954 and located in Highland, California in San Bernardino County, East Valley Water District (District) is a world-class, award-winning organization, with a focus not only on providing safe and reliable drinking water but enhancing and preserving the quality of life for the community. The District provides water and wastewater services to residents within a 30.1 square mile area. This includes over 103,000 people within the cities of Highland and San Bernardino, portions of the unincorporated County of San Bernardino, the San Manuel Band of Mission Indians, and Patton State Hospital. The District has been the recipient of several awards including Top Workplace by the Inland News Group, GFOA Distinguished Budget Presentation Award and Outstanding Achievement, and District of Distinction by the Special District Leadership Foundation.

East Valley Water District was formed through a local election of mostly citrus grove farmers, to have water service provided by a public agency. The District is located in the foothills of the San Bernardino Mountains, 65 miles east of Los Angeles in the County of San Bernardino. East Valley Water District currently has 18 programs, which are overseen by various members of the executive management team with a 2021-2022 budget of \$48,536,000.

With a service area just over 30 square-miles, the District has three sources for water, the Santa Ana River (SAR), the Bunker Hill Groundwater Basin, and the State Water Project. The SAR starts with natural springs and snow melt high in the San Bernardino Mountains. Groundwater is drawn from the Bunker Hill Basin, a natural underground storage area made up of soil, sand, and gravel. A portion of the District's water is imported from Northern California through the State Water Project.

The District is responsible for the collection and conveyance of wastewater within the service area. Historically, the wastewater was sent to the City of San Bernardino Municipal Water Department facilities for treatment in accordance with a Joint Powers Agreement. In 2018, East Valley Water District successfully received authorization for reorganization to include wastewater treatment authority. This allows the District to construct and operate facilities to treat wastewater collected from within its service area.

The District is currently finishing construction of the Sterling Natural Resource Center (SNRC) that will treat up to 8 million gallons of wastewater daily for recharge into the Bunker Hill Groundwater Basin. This state-of-the-art facility will create a drought-proof recycled water supply, resulting in hundreds of millions of gallons of water stored for use in the Santa Ana River watershed. The SNRC began operational testing of key systems at the facility and started recruitment efforts of the new program's personnel. With the Sterling Natural Resource Center's Community Ribbon Cutting scheduled for Summer 2022, the District anticipates commissioning the facility to begin treating wastewater by Fall 2022.



## Transparency and Governance

The five member Board of Directors are elected at-large and serve 4-year terms. East Valley Water District has established a culture of transparency, fiscal management, and good governance through its dedication to public service. The District has taken steps to make financial reports and other information easily accessible to the public by creating a Transparency Portal. The portal includes access to budget documents, compensation reports, financial audit, and other District related information.

To view the 2021-2022 Adopted Budget, go to: <https://www.eastvalley.org/DocumentCenter/View/2741/2021-22-Adopted-Budget>

## District Vision & Core Values

Enhance and preserve the quality of life for our community through innovative leadership and world class public service.

### Core Values

- Leadership: Motivating a group of people to act towards achieving a common goal or destination.
- Partnership: Developing relationships between a wide range of groups and individuals through collaboration and shared responsibility.
- Stewardship: Embracing the responsibility of enhancing and protecting resources considered worth caring for and preserving.

To learn more about East Valley Water District, go to: [www.eastvalley.org](http://www.eastvalley.org)



## The Position

Reporting to and hired by a five member Board of Directors, the General Manager/CEO is responsible for executive level activities including planning, directing, managing, and overseeing the services, activities and operations of the District, and is responsible for the overall leadership of the District's 66 dedicated staff members. The General Manager/CEO ensures that services and operations are delivered in an efficient and effective manner while implementing policy decisions made by the Board of Directors and facilitating the development and implementation of the District's goals and objectives.

The General Manager/CEO will be responsible for the daily management and oversight of the District including working closely with the various department and program directors, as well as with other external agencies and stakeholders. Under general policy guidance from the Board of Directors, the General Manager/CEO oversees, reviews, and evaluates the District's 18 programs including, Administration, Engineering, Finance, Operations, Water Reclamation, Human Resources, Customer Service and Community Relations functions; ensuring that services and operations are delivered in an efficient and effective manner, and acting as principal advisor to the Board.

### Essential Duties include but are not limited to the following:

- Provide leadership in the implementation of Board policies and the development of strategies, business plans, budgets, programs, procedures, long-range plans and administrative and personnel management for the District.
- Plan and evaluate senior management staff performance.
- Provide leadership and work with staff to develop their skills to the highest potential.
- Hire and retain highly competent, customer-service oriented staff.
- Apply day-to-day management practices which support the District's Vision, Goals and Objectives, and Core Values.
- Direct the development of operating and capital budgets for consideration and adoption by the Board of Directors.
- Represent the District before external organizations, including other water districts/agencies, governmental and regulatory agencies, private entities, professional and community organizations, citizen boards and commissions, media, and general public.

### Opportunities and Priorities

- Continue to build and sustain positive working relationships with partnering agencies as a leader in the water industry.
- Stay current on State regulations and requirements and ensure a sustainable and diverse portfolio.
- Be visible and accessible in the community; continue transparency in the District through open communication, newsletters, media interviews, and public engagements.
- With the construction of the SNRC, maintain the solid impact, accountability, and customer service that currently exists; maintain the direction as developed in the Five-Year Workplan.

## The Ideal Candidate

The ideal candidate will be a dynamic, visionary, and strategic leader with extensive management and administrative abilities. Excellent communication and interpersonal skills are necessary to build and maintain effective relationships with the Board of Directors, internal staff, partnering agencies, and the public. The successful candidate will be politically astute with the ability to interact with elected officials on matters that impact the District and community. Solid knowledge of water issues and organizational structure, regulatory compliance, business practices and principles, the budget process, and administration are essential. The ideal candidate will be a strategic thinker, who appreciates the need for teamwork and collaboration. East Valley Water District's next General Manager/CEO must be willing and able to manage people and the creative process with inspiration. A successful candidate must show the capacity to multi-task and manage diverse activities, programs, and staff, while leading with diplomacy, inclusive communication, and positive motivational leadership.

The position requires a motivated leader, who is forward thinking, approachable, and committed to excellence. The ideal candidate will understand local, regional, County, and State water issues and trends as well as the Integrated Regional Water Management (IRWM) collaboration and funding process including regional, County, Tribal and State entities.

### Key Competencies and Characteristics

- A solid leader and role model with a positive presence who demonstrates initiative, is action-oriented, exercises good judgment, treats others with respect, and is open and approachable.
- An active problem solver who anticipates and responds to problems in a timely manner, develops alternative solutions, and is able to bring resolution to issues quickly, involving others as needed.
- A relationship builder, committed to excellence with a strong customer service ethic and the ability to empower employees, while also holding them accountable.





- An outstanding manager of people who provides guidance and professional support to staff, offers regular feedback to employees, and serves as a mentor in providing training and growth opportunities.
- Excellent at writing clear, concise staff and other reports for presentation in oral or written format to the Board of Directors or other elected bodies.
- A leader who is collaborative and supportive in working with executive leadership, ensuring the organization works toward a common goal.
- A person with the highest ethical standards who commands the trust and respect of peers through conduct of high integrity and professionalism.

## Qualifications

Education and experience that provide the required knowledge and abilities would be:

- Graduation from an accredited college or university with a bachelor's degree including major course work in business administration, public administration, civil engineering or related field is required.
- A master's degree or other advanced degree in fields such as public/business administration, legal or engineering is highly desirable.
- Seven years of increasingly responsible experience in a public utility, involving the operation and maintenance of water and wastewater systems, including four years at a management level.

## Salary and Benefits

**The salary range for this position is \$284,400 - \$324,000, depending on experience and qualifications.**

**East Valley Water District offers an excellent benefits package that includes:**

- CalPERS retirement providing the 2.7% @ 55 retirement formula for classic CalPERS members; new members will be provided the 2% @ 62 retirement formula. The District pays the full contribution to the retirement account.

- Performance Award – 10%
- Automobile Allowance – \$1,500.00 per month
- The District will pay the full monthly premium on the selected medical, dental, and vision benefit provided.
- Supplemental Retirement Account – \$20,000.00 per year
- Supplemental Life Insurance – \$250,000.00

### Additional Benefits Include:

- Cost Of Living Adjustment – 3%
- Vacation – 30 days
- Sick Leave – 117 hours
- Administrative Leave – 80 hours
- The District will offer all other benefits provided to its exempt employees in accordance with District standard policies.

## Application Process and Recruitment Schedule

**The final filing date is Monday, May 16, 2022.**

To be considered, please electronically submit your resume, cover letter and a list of five professional references (references will not be contacted in the early stages of the recruitment) to:

<https://koffassociates.com/gm-ceo/>

Resumes should reflect years and months of positions held, as well as size of staff and budgets you have managed. For additional information, please contact:



Frank Rojas  
(510) 495-0448

[frojas@koffassociates.com](mailto:frojas@koffassociates.com)

Carlo Zabala  
(510) 342-3233

[czabala@koffassociates.com](mailto:czabala@koffassociates.com)

Website: <https://koffassociates.com/>

Resumes will be screened based on the criteria outlined in this brochure. Candidates with the most relevant qualifications will be given preliminary interviews by the executive recruiter. Koff & Associates will report the results to East Valley Water District. The District will then select candidates who will be invited to participate in a formal interview process. Extensive reference and background checks will be completed on the selected candidate.